

I am a Flight Attendant in the US Airways system for Mesa Air Group. I received an email from our union stating that the FCC was considering allowing the use of cell phones inflight. If this is true, I want to let you know that I, along with many other flight crew personnel, think this is a horrible idea. As Flight Attendants, we already have a hard enough time keeping passengers' attention during our safety announcements since we have to compete for their attention with their newspapers, magazines, conversations with fellow passengers, and a slew of other factors. If we added the complication of having to compete with cell phones, our passengers would never hear information given to them with the purpose of saving their lives in the case of an emergency. Not only that, but I think it would cause a huge safety risk, as terrorists could contact co-conspirators on the ground. Where would we draw the line with equipment use? Would PDA phones be allowed? These phones have GPS technology, and it would give terrorists more opportunity if we allow them to know the exact location of an aircraft inflight! If the purpose of this idea is to allow passengers contact family/friends on the ground in the case of an attack on the aircraft, there is no need for it to begin with. Passengers will certainly reach for their phones in the case of an emergency regardless of whether they're allowed or not! Besides all this, I don't believe it's ever been proven that the signal from cell phones DON'T interfere with the communications devices in the flight deck. And what about tying up the bandwidth in the towers on the ground as the aircraft streaks across the sky and a few hundred cell phones in that aircraft are searching for signal? Cell phone users on the ground have enough trouble trying to get a good quality signal as it is, without this added complication.

Thank you for you time.
Michelle L. Valley